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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br><b>FORM PTO-1449</b> | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>10123/00501        | SERIAL NO.<br>To be assigned |
|  | APPLICANT(S)<br>Robert F. Rioux et al. |                              |
|  | FILING DATE<br>Herewith                | GROUP<br>To be assigned      |

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER INITIAL | PATENT NUMBER | PATENT DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE* |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|------|-------|----------|--------------|
|                  |               |             |      |       |          |              |
|                  |               |             |      |       |          |              |
|                  |               |             |      |       |          |              |

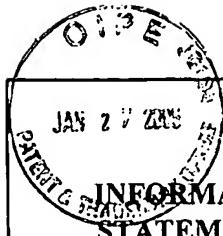
**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE (M/D/Y) | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|                  |                 |              |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
|                  |                 |              |         |       |          |             |    |
|                  |                 |              |         |       |          |             |    |

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER INITIAL |  | AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.   |
|------------------|--|--|
| NOT AVAILABLE    |  | General Surgical Innovations, "Corporate Profile", 1999, 4 Pages, Online,<br><a href="http://www.americanwebsite.com/comps1/gsi/pages/corporate/profile.htm">http://www.americanwebsite.com/comps1/gsi/pages/corporate/profile.htm</a> |
|                  |  |  |

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|---|---------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| EXAMINER  | REFERENCE UNAVAILABLE A.A | DATE CONSIDERED | 7/8/05 |
| EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |                           |                 |        |



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|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>FORM PTO-1449 | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>10123/00501 | APPLICATION NO.<br>10/620,495 |
|   | INVENTOR(S)<br>Rioux et al.     |                               |
|   | FILING DATE<br>July 16, 2003    |                               |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | PATENT NUMBER | PATENT DATE       | NAME           | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE* |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-------|----------|--------------|
| A.A.             | 2002/165423   | November 7, 2002  | Forman         |       |          |              |
|                  | 2002/055666   | May 9, 2002       | Liggins et al. |       |          |              |
|                  | 6,083,148     | July 4, 2000      | Williams       |       |          |              |
|                  | 6,482,142     | November 19, 2002 | Patrick et al. |       |          |              |
| ✓                | 6,537,194     | March 25, 2003    | Winkler        |       |          |              |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE (M/D/Y) | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|                  |                 |              |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
| A.A.             | 2004/043531     | May 27, 2004 | WO      |       |          |             |    |
|                  |                 |              |         |       |          |             |    |
|                  |                 |              |         |       |          |             |    |

OTHER DOCUMENTS

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|------------------|--|--|
| EXAMINER INITIAL |  | AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC. |
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7/8/05 A.A.

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|--|----------------------------------|
| EXAMINER<br><i>James S. Forman</i>   | DATE CONSIDERED<br><i>6/8/05</i> |
| EXAMINER Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |                                  |